

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

On September 3, 2002, a telephonic interview was conducted with Supervisory Patent Examiner Robert Warden. The courtesies extended by Examiner Warden and his willingness to consider a proposed amendment to claim 18 under such short notice is greatly appreciated.

During the interview, a proposed amendment to claim 18 was discussed. This proposed amendment would recite that the plural openings are not in fluid communication with one another in response to the locking device forcing the closure member against the block. Specifically, Applicants' undersigned representative proposed to insert the phrase --so as not to be in fluid communication with one another-- after the term "openings" (first occurrence) in claim 18, line 8.

Examiner Warden expressed that such an amendment would be entered and would place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, by the current amendment, claim 18 has been amended as discussed during the interview. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance with the allowed claims being 18-35.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 18 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact

the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 3, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 18 has been amended as follows.

18. (Amended) A pressure and temperature reactor vessel comprising:

a block defining plural openings that are closed at one end of said plural openings and are open at another end of said plural openings;

a closure member to seal said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings; and

a locking device to force said closure member against said block such that said closure member seals said plural openings in a pressure tight manner at said another end of said plural openings so as not to be in fluid communication with one another, whereby the sealed plural openings define plural reaction chambers.